



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF TEXAS**

**CRAWFORD C. MARTIN**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711**

February 28, 1972

Honorable David Wade, M.D.  
Commissioner  
Texas Department of Mental  
Health and Mental Retardation  
Box 12668, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Opinion No. M-1083

Re: Expenditure of money ap-  
propriated in Item 8 of  
the current General Appro-  
priations Act to the  
Commission on Alcoholism.

Dear Dr. Wade:

Your request for an opinion asks the following question:

"May money appropriated in item 8 of the current appropriations to the Commission on Alcoholism be expended to pay travel expense of Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation employees engaged in the training and coordination of personnel and activities funded by the said item 8."

Item 8 of the appropriation to the Commission on Alcoholism for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1972, reads as follows:

"For the Year Ending  
August 31,  
1972

- "8. For the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, to supplement the rehabilitation of alcoholics in the State hospitals, to be expended with the advice of the Texas Commission on Alcoholism for the following: Supervising Counselor (14-4744) two Alcoholism Counselor II's (14,4742), sixteen Alcoholism Counselor I's (13-4741), one Administrative Secretary (9-0138), travel and all other necessary expenses \$200,702"

It is noted that while the above quoted item of appropriation is made to the Commission on Alcoholism, it is for the benefit of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and is to be expended for the purpose of carrying out the Department's alcoholism programs with the advice of the Texas Commission on Alcoholism.

You state in your request:

"As you will note, this appropriation item provides for designated positions. The individuals filling these positions work in this Department's State hospitals and are involved with the rehabilitation of alcoholics. This Department employs additional personnel whose salary is paid from other appropriations and whose duty is to train and coordinate the activities of the individuals employed pursuant to the above cited appropriation item. These additional personnel incur travel expense in carrying out this training and coordination effort in the State hospital alcoholism programs. . . ."

In view of the fact that Item 8 specifically provides that the money appropriated may be expended for "travel and all other necessary expenses", it is our opinion that such phrase refers to travel and necessary expenses in carrying out the alcoholism programs referred to in Item 8. You are accordingly advised that moneys appropriated in Item 8 of the current appropriation to the Commission on Alcoholism may be expended to pay travel expenses of employees of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation engaged in carrying out the alcoholism programs of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to rehabilitate alcoholics in the State hospitals referred to in said Item 8.

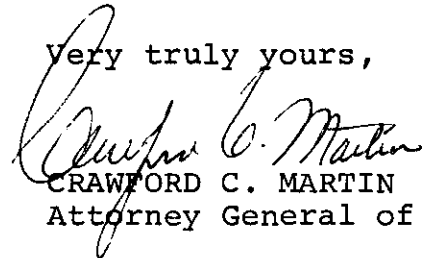
#### S U M M A R Y

Item 8 of the appropriation to the Commission on Alcoholism contained in the current General Appropriations Act may be expended for the purpose of paying travel expenses of employees of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation incurred in carrying out the alcoholism programs of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to rehabilitate alcoholics in the State hospitals.

Dr. David Wade, page 3

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Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Crawford C. Martin".

CRAWFORD C. MARTIN  
Attorney General of Texas

Prepared by John Reeves  
Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED:  
OPINION COMMITTEE

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